IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Eiichi ISHII et al.

Serial No. NEW

Attn: APPLICATION BRANCH

Filed September 11, 2003

Attorney Docket No. 2003-1290

METHOD OF SURFACE TREATMENT OF TITANIUM METAL (Rule 1.53(b) Continuation-in-Part of Serial No. 09/902,260, Filed July 11, 2001)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE FEE FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975.

Sir:

Kindly amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows: